

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) Appliance comprising an IC card reader ~~(3)~~ and a power supply ~~(4, T2)~~ for providing a supply voltage ~~(VCC)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the appliance comprises an overload protection circuit ~~(6, D1)~~, which simulates an IC card extraction in case of an overload of the supply voltage ~~(VCC)~~.
2. (currently amended) Appliance according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the IC card reader ~~(3)~~ comprises a card presence switch ~~(2)~~, and that in case of an overload of the supply voltage ~~(VCC)~~, the overload protection circuit ~~(6, D1)~~ changes a card detected signal ~~(CARD-DET)~~ from positive to negative for simulating an IC card extraction.
3. (currently amended) Appliance according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the overload protection circuit ~~(6, D1)~~ is coupled to the card presence switch ~~(2)~~ and to the supply voltage ~~(VCC)~~ for a detection of an overload of the supply voltage ~~(VCC)~~.
4. (currently amended) Appliance according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the overload protection circuit ~~(6, D1)~~ comprises a diode ~~(D1)~~, a comparator or a switch, being arranged for detecting a voltage breakdown of the supply voltage ~~(VCC)~~.
5. (currently amended) Appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein to inputs of a switching means ~~(IC3)~~ a card detected signal ~~(CARD-DET)~~ and a supply voltage "ON/OFF" command ~~(CMD-VCC)~~ provided by a micro-controller ~~(5)~~ is coupled, for switching on the power supply ~~(4, T2)~~ only, when the card detected signal ~~(CARD-DET)~~ is positive.

6. (currently amended) Appliance according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the switching means (~~IC3~~) is a logic circuit gate, for example a NAND or an AND circuit, or a buffer/line driver circuit with an output enable input.
7. (currently amended) Appliance according to claim 1, ~~5 or 6,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein that the overload protection circuit (~~6~~) is arranged within the power supply circuit (~~4~~), which provides an error signal in case of an overload, and that in case of an overload of the respective supply voltage (~~VCC~~), the error signal changes via a logic circuit a card detected signal (~~CARD-DET~~) from positive to negative for simulating an IC card extraction.
8. (currently amended) Appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the supply voltage (~~VCC~~) is a supply voltage for the IC card reader (~~3~~), in particular for an IC card contact (~~C1~~).
9. (currently amended) Appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the appliance is a digital set-top box or a digital satellite receiver with a respective IC card reader.